

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Far East)

REPORT

SUBJECT

1. Soviet Military and Economic Activity on Sakhalin Island
2. Registration of Inhabitants of Sakhalin Island

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Air Activity

1. A new runway extension, 40 meters in width and running in a north-south direction, has been completed at Yuzhno Sakhalinsk (Toyohara) (N 46-57, E 142-44) airfield. This extension is about 400 meters in length from the center point (sic). New hangars, believed to have been completed about October 1953, are located at the end of this runway. Laborers for this construction activity were brought from the Soviet mainland and no local inhabitants were hired.
2. Between 20 and 30 transport planes of two different types take off daily from the airfield for the Soviet mainland and the Kuril Islands. Aerial combat training at an altitude of 8,000 meters took place approximately every three days throughout November 1953.

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3. Ainus and other local inhabitants near the old Yuzhno Sakhalinsk airstrip have been ordered to move.

Naval Activity

4. A wharf for military use is under construction in the port of Okhotskoye (Tonnai) (N 46-52, E 143-10).

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5. The port of Leonidovo (Kami-shikuka) (N 49-17, E 142-52) has become a key port, with 15 new warehouses along the coast and others under construction.

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6. Wooden wharves of unknown capacity are under construction in Kita Maoka, Korsakov (Otomari) (N 46-37, E 142-47), and Okhotskoye.²
7. On about 20 September 1953, the following Soviet naval vessels were observed sailing in a southeasterly (sic) direction from Sakhalin Island: one 7,000-ton to 8,000-ton cruiser, three destroyers of 3,000 to 4,000 tons each, and 20 landing craft with a capacity of 80 men each. [redacted] this fleet was headed toward the Kuriles for maneuvers. 25X1
8. All newly built ports or important places (sic) along the coast of Sakhalin Island have barbed wire entanglements with a 24-hour guard. Recently, off-limits signs have been posted in all such areas in which there has been conspicuous new development.

Military Activity

9. There was a pronounced increased influx of Soviet Army troops throughout Sakhalin Island between August and October 1953. There are approximately two or three companies in each district (sic). In September 1953, high-ranking Soviet officers were stationed in Okhotskoye, Yuzhno Sakhalinsk, Poronaysk (Shikuka) (N 49-13, E 143-07), Kholmsk (Maoka) (N 47-03, E 142-03), and Kita Maoka. Local inhabitants, especially Ainus, are receiving amazingly superior military training. The security forces are giving the training, with three months considered one term.
10. Since about April 1953, the Soviet Army training unit in Kita Maoka has been providing political and military training for local inhabitants. Picked members of the security force are also given training here. A motor pool unit, an engineer unit, and construction workers' squad are newly stationed in Ozeretskoye (Enru) (N 46-44, E 142-38); strength of approximately battalion size. (sic).³
11. A self-governing reserve corps has been organized by the inhabitants of the entire island of Sakhalin. A system of rations and incentive for extra rations has been established in the best organized localities. Members of this corps are directly responsible to the defense force command (sic). The corps is composed of Soviet, [redacted] intelligence officers and political committee members. The age of members of the corps ranges from 18 to 35 years. 25X1

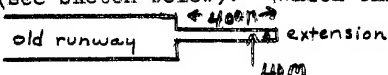
Construction Activity

12. Telephone cables are being installed along the main road starting from Korsakov and running in the direction of Yuzhno Sakhalinsk.
13. A double-track railroad line between Dolinsk (Ochiai) (N 47-20, E 142-48) and Peshchanskoye (Hamachiku) (N 46-43, E 142-35) has been completed.

Registration of Inhabitants of Sakhalin Island

14. Local registration of non-Soviet inhabitants of Sakhalin Island took place in the following localities from 1 to 20 January 1954: Dolinsk, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Korsakov, Ozeretskoye, Gornozavodsk (Naihoru) (N 46-43, E 141-50), and Aniva (Rutaka) (N 46-43, E 142-31). Census-taking was announced as the ostensible reason for the registration. However, the inhabitants of Sakhalin Island believe that the registration was done to prepare for their forced evacuation elsewhere. [redacted] the registration was necessary in preparation for the organization of local vigilance commissions and public safety forces. 25X1

1. [redacted] Comment: Information as received. On the basis of available information on the orientation of the runway at Yuzhno Sakhalinsk [redacted] may mean that the runway has been extended 400 meters at one end by a strip which is narrower than the old runway and which is in line with the longitudinal axis of the old runway, leaving an equal difference in width on each side (see sketch below). Which end of the runway has been extended and at which



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end the hangars are located are not known.

2. [REDACTED] Comment: It is not clear from the text of this report whether the 25X1
wharf construction activity at Okhotskoye mentioned in Paragraphs 4 and 6
is identical or not.

[REDACTED] 25X1

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